

The Benjamin Holme House  
Fort Elsinboro  
Salem County, New Jersey  
SALEM VICINITY

HABS-NJ-481

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Benjamin Holme House  
Fort Elsinboro  
Salem County, New Jersey

Owner: Robert M. Vanneman

Date of Erection: Main unit 1784

Architect:

Builder: Colonel Benjamin Holme

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Main unit two and one-half;  
wing two stories

Materials of Construction: Foundation - brick

Interior walls - brick,  
Flemish bond front

Interior walls - plaster  
with paneling on fireplace  
ends

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

The first of the Holme family in America was John who came from Somerset, England. He sailed on "The Desire" and landed in Philadelphia June 23, 1686. Ten years later he moved to Salem County. His grandson was Colonel Benjamin Holme, Jr., the builder of the house under consideration.

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Benjamin Holme, Jr. was born in 1727. In 1762 he purchased the David Morris Estate. During the Revolution he was a colonel of the American militia for the lower counties and operated with Colonel Elijah Hand of Cumberland.

The wing of the house was built according to Sickler in 1750. The authors of "Colonial Roof-Trees" and "Candle Ends" say that it was built before 1729; however, this portion was burned on March 24, 1778 by the British under Colonel Mawhood; this was three days after the Hancock massacre (NJ-54). Holme's Ferry House on the Delaware had been burned about a month before by Abercrombie's troops. Holme rebuilt the burned part and added the larger wing around 1784.

The property remained in the Holme family until 1890 when it was deeded by the heirs of Benjamin S. Holme to Morris E. Carpenter who sold it eight years later to Isaac Pedrick. In 1903 Pedrick sold to Michael Hogan from whom the present owner purchased in 1910.

#### Bibliography:

"Colonial Roof-Trees" and "Candle Ends"  
Collected by the Salem County Historical  
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A search of Salem County records by  
Mary H. Dufflin, Salem County Office

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